

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 18 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1 and 18 are the pending independent claims.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-34 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0011338 to *Bonola* (hereinafter "*Bonola*"). It is submitted that claims 1-34 are patentable over the cited reference.

Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to recite the step (and functionality) of determining whether a free group entry of a size required by a portion of the set of data exists in memory ***pre-allocated with a group size*** in one of a plurality of sections of a memory.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that *Bonola* teaches memory that is "allocated to [a] heap data structure". It is respectfully submitted that the memory allocated to a heap data structure according to *Bonola* is not equivalent to memory "pre-allocated with a group size".

According to the paragraph of *Bonola* cited by the Examiner (paragraph. 38), the N bits of the heap data structure can be used to determined whether there exists an "appropriately sized subregion 302A-302F in [a] free list". *Bonola*, paragraph 38. While the technique prescribed by *Bonola* may indicate the existence of an unassigned aggregate sub-region containing memory resources of a certain size, it does not indicate whether a free group entry of a size required by a portion of the set of data exists in memory pre-

allocated with a group size in one of a plurality of sections of a memory. In fact, *Bonola* is silent with respect to pre-allocation of sections of a memory with a group size.

With regard to this feature, Applicants' specification clearly indicates what is meant by pre-allocation of sections of memory with a group size:

The memory may be divided into sections, each of which is allocated a size, based on a set of data anticipated to be received by the hardware, before receiving any data in the hardware.

Applicants' Specification, page 4, ll. 17-20. This teaching is in sharp distinction with the teachings of *Bonola*, in which unassigned subregions of memory having different sizes are "created" simply by virtue of the assignment of surrounding memory sections (see *Bonola*, paragraph 33). Thus, such subregions are not planned in advance, and therefore cannot be pre-allocated with a size at all, much less pre-allocated with a size based on a set of data anticipated to be received by the hardware.

In light of the foregoing discussion of the distinctions between the claimed subject matter and the teachings of *Bonola*, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 18 are not anticipated by *Bonola*. Similarly, claims 2-17, which depend from claim 1, and claims 19-34, which depend from claim 18, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

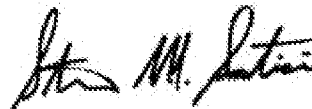
Withdrawal of the final rejection of claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on *Bonola* is accordingly respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicants believe all the pending claims are in a condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same.

The Applicants do not believe any other fees are due regarding this amendment. If any additional fees are required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at the number listed below to discuss the amendment should any issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Santisi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Santisi" being more prominent than the middle initial "M".

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